



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**December 15, 2022**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Jonathan Arias, Alana Aronin, Elliott Brown, Marcela Campoli, Donna Cawley, Yingxi Chen, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Susan Emery, Laurel Fain, Gabriela Lemus, Adam Lustig, Cesar Perez, Betty Smith, Kendra Harris, Stephanie Iszard (on behalf of Dr. Kapunan), Dr. Davis

Members Absent: Brent Berger, Desiree de la Torre

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

DHHS Staff: Dr. Rogers, Felicia Hugee, Meghan Sontag

Guests: Kenny Welch, Sean O'Donnell, Venchele Saint Dic

AGENDA ITEMS/PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS /RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p><b>Meeting call to Order–</b> <i>Crystal DeVance-Wilson – Chair</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm. The COH Chair welcomed the newly appointed Commissioners and asked new members to introduce themselves.</li> <li>The 5 newly appointed Commissioners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Betty Smith, Cesar Perez, Donna Cawley, Yingxi Chen, Laurel Fain</li> <li>Dr. Kisha Davis, the new Montgomery County Health Officer, started this week and was also in attendance</li> </ul> </li> <li>The next two COH meetings are January 19<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Approval of November Minutes–</b> <i>Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Chair</i></p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Marcela Campoli to approve the November 17, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Gabriela Lemus. The minutes were unanimously approved</p>	<p>Post the approved November minutes to COH website- <i>COH Staff (complete)</i></p>
<p><b>MCDHHS Health Officer's Report –</b> <i>Dr. Rogers, Policy &amp; Strategy Officer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Rogers said a few words on behalf of Dr. Bridgers who had a conflict and was unable to attend the meeting</li> <li>Dr. Rogers invited Sean O'Donnell to join and provide a COVID19 and Monkeypox update</li> <li>Dr. Rogers also welcomed Dr. Davis and noted PHS will work with Dr. Davis to get her plugged in to the COH in January</li> <li>Dr. Davis shared her background as a family physician born and raised in the County. Dr. Davis focus is whole community health, reducing health disparities and increasing access on a systemic level to improve outcomes of residents. Dr. Davis shared she is excited to work in her home county.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>COVID19 and Monkeypox Update</b> – Sean O’Donnell, Program Administrator Public Health Emergency Preparedness &amp; Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean O’Donnell provided an update on COVID19, RSV, Influenza and Monkeypox in the county. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have seen significant increases in RSV and flu this year as compared in previous years. Is impacting overall hospital volume.</li> <li>COVID19 numbers spiked after the Thanksgiving holiday, some concern the rates in NY city may be coming to our area. Recommending caution and mask wearing when being around individuals at greater risk.</li> <li>Mortality rate for COVID has remained consistent- 1 death/day. Mortality rate spiked last December and January.</li> <li>Disease control team has been working with long term care facilities, about 10% of population are in a LTC but make up 38% of deaths due to COVID. Number of staff work with these facilities to ensure they are following best practices, using PPE and offering vaccinations.</li> <li>Encourage people to have a plan before you visit anyone in a vulnerable population. Test before you go and stay home if you are symptomatic, even if you test negative.</li> <li>County is still distributing tests and masks at libraries and some rec centers. Can also order free tests through <a href="https://www.covid.gov/tests">COVID.gov/tests</a> - Free at-home COVID-19 tests</li> <li>RSV cases have come down significantly these past two weeks, influenza continues to increase. Recommended to get flu shot- around 30% of population in the county have received a flu vaccine.</li> <li>Recommended that everyone get COVID bivalent booster.</li> <li>No new Monkeypox cases in the County for the past 3 weeks.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Commissioner asked if there are any variances by ethnicity related to COVID morbidity/mortality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infection rates have not changed much by race/ethnicity over the past few months. Sean noted the charts clearly show unvaccinated populations are becoming infected, hospitalized, and dying at a much higher rate. The biggest disparity is in who is getting the COVID booster</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Overview of Licensure and Regulatory Services</b> – Kenneth Welch, Environmental Health Manager and Acting Senior Administrator, Licensure and Regulatory Services</p> <p>Kenny Welch provided an overview of <a href="#">Licensure and Regulatory Services</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code Enforcement agency- educate and enforce businesses and anything public health related as far as disease control- investigate and take action as necessary</li> <li>Total of 23 programs: Biggest program is Food and Facilities Licensing (3984 licensed food facilities in the County-including restaurants, grocery stores, bars, mobile food trucks, farmers markets).</li> <li>Other programs include licensing and inspecting facilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assisted living facilities and group homes</li> <li>private education institutions</li> <li>bathing beaches (2 ponds in the County regulated same way as beaches)</li> <li>youth camps</li> <li>bodyworks (reflexology and acupressure) Created to curb human trafficking. Work alongside the police and Commission for Women. Working with Commission for Women on re-writing bodyworks regulations to give County more power to assist with police. Also hoping to add massage into this regulation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Send any additional questions for Kenny Welch to Meghan – All Commissioners</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Short term residentials- this may go back under Dept of Housing</li> <li>▪ Facilities offering bingo, raffles and amusements; massage establishments; swimming pools; tanning facilities; hotels; and video game facilities, tattoo complaints</li> <li>▪ Also respond to rodent complaints and regulate smoking laws in the County</li> <li>▪ In 2020, also responsible for the enforcement of COVID laws</li> <li>▪ Biggest issue- in July 2021, lost decade long MOU with MDH to have oversight and inspect nursing homes. The state cannot subcontract this and if it does, it must be on a competitive basis so there is no guarantee Montgomery County would receive the contract. Commission on Aging has been responsive to this and is working to see what can be done- get the MOU back or can the County go in along with Office of Healthcare Quality (OHQ) Survey Teams- if OHQ responsible for the annual inspections, can the County handle complaints and infection control</li> <li>• Question from Commissioner regarding the state legalizing Marijuana based on the recent vote: marijuana will be a state licensed business</li> <li>• Question from Commissioner regarding massage and tattoo licensing: massage therapists must be licensed through the state. Tattooing does not require license in the state, except in 1-2 jurisdictions (ex: Ocean City)</li> <li>• Question from Commissioner regarding how License and Regulatory services communicates with business regarding COVID policies that were instituted: In the past sent a letter to all businesses and referred to the website for updated information. County Executive has provided money for new software that will help with communication.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>BCC Liaison Assignments and Updates- Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Chair</b></p> <p>Meghan shared current list of Liaisons. Marcela volunteered to be the liaison for the Commission on Aging. Chair encouraged Commissioners to review the current liaison list and consider the openings. Chair also encouraged Commissioners to invite members from other BCCs they know to COH meetings.</p> <p>Chair discussed the additional trainings required by Commissioners. The total number of trainings are now 3; Open Meetings Act Training, Parliamentary Training, Ethics Training.</p>	<p>Connect Marcela to the Commission on Aging- <i>COH Staff (complete)</i></p> <p>Complete the 3 trainings and upload certificates – <i>All Commissioners</i></p>
<p><b>Discuss Budget Priorities to Present to County Executive- Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Chair</b></p> <p>Chair noted today we can work on letters for County Executive during our breakout workgroups. Chair has received letter from Environmental Health and Education Group. Chair requested Commissioners send their letters to her as soon as possible for review, prior to sending to CE.</p>	
<p><b>Workgroup Breakout Sessions – All Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meghan reminded Commissioners of their workgroup affiliation (if previously selected) and set up break out rooms for Commissioners to convene and work</li> <li>• The Breakout rooms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Access to Care</b> Alana Aronin, Betty Smith, Crystal DeVance Wilson</li> <li>○ <b>Environmental Health and Education</b> Cesar Perez, Susan Emery, Gabriela Lemus, Laurel Fain, Yingxi Cimo Chen</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Access to Care and Public Health Administration workgroups send advocacy letters to</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Public Health Administration</b> Jonathan Arias, Elliott Brown, Marcela Campoli, Adam Lustig, Tara Clemons Johnson, Venchele</li> <li>• Betty Smith is drafting the letter for Access to Care</li> <li>• The Public Health Administration workgroup letter is requesting a data analyst position for DHHS- this is a continuation of the request from previous years</li> <li>• Chair thanked all Commissioners for their time working on these advocacy issues and expressed gratitude. Reminded Commissioners of the goal to get advocacy letters out to CE by end of this month.</li> </ul>	<p>Crystal as soon as possible</p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Alana Aronin to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Laurel Fain. Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:57pm.</p>	